

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 05412 190910Z

21

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-02 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 /038 W

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O 190900Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3175

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5412

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

SUBJ: ABORTIVE COUP: NEED FOR PUBLICITY GUIDANCE

RE STAND-HINTON TELCON JUNE 18

1. MY ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION REGARDING ZAIRIAN INTENTIONS TO PUBLICIZE THEIR REQUEST FOR MY DEPARTURE SEEMS CONFIRMED BY FACT THAT TODAY'S PRESS IS STILL QUIET. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT TOGETHER CONVINCING STORY EXPLAINING POST-HASTE DEPARTURE OF MYSELF, FAMILY, AND PACKING HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS. IN SHORT, PEOPLE ARE BOUND TO FIND OUT, HOWEVER HARD I TRY TO KEEP MATTER QUIET. PRESENCE HERE OF TOM JOHNSON OF NEW YORK TIMES ADDS ANOTHER ELEMENT.

2. WHILE I AM NOT AWARE OF CONSIDERATIONS LYING BEHIND STRATEGY DEPARTMENT MAY BE EVOLVING, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR NEWS TO BE MADE PUBLIC DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING THAN FOR THERE TO BE LEAK.

3. IN ANY CASE, I NEED GUIDANCE URGENTLY ON WHAT DEPARTMENT WISHES ME TO SAY TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. PENDING RECEIPT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, I'LL TRY KEEP LID ON CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT I AM, OF COURSE,

PROCEEDING TO MAKE DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS.

HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, EXPULSION, PLOTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINSHA05412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750213-0822
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750635/aaaabful.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABORTIVE COUP: NEED FOR PUBLICITY GUIDANCE RE STAND-HINTON TELCON JUNE 18
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US, (HINTON, DEANE R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006